Delay in completion of Kandla-Bhatinda Pipeline for Petroleum Transportation

*89. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:
SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kandla-Bhatinda Pipeline Project for transporting petroleum products from Kandla to Bhatinda is to be re-examined by the Planning Commission;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the project was posed to the World Bank without the clearance of the Public Investment Board;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(d) what was the original estimate of the time and cost of the project and whether the delay would escalate the time and cost factors; and

(e) what objections have been raised by the Railway Ministry to the proposed project?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (e) The proposal for Kandla-Bhatinda Pipeline Project was recommended by the Public Investment Board (PIB) after a detailed analysis by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance on the relative merits of rail and pipeline options.

The negotiations for the World Bank Loan took place in March, 1989 after the PIB had recommended this proposal in its meeting held on 20th January, 1989. This was done keeping in view the lead time required for approval of such loans. The World Bank has approved loan of US $ 178 million for this project effective October, 30, 1989.

The project was estimated to cost Rs. 772·97 crores based on March, 1988 prices and was scheduled to be completed in 33 months from the date of Government approval. It would be premature at this stage to estimate the impact of the delay on time and cost.

As per the Ministry of Railways, with the proposed Broad Gauge railway line between Kandla and Bhatinda, adequate capacity would be available till 1995-96, for movement of petroleum products from Kandla to northwest region. It was also contended by them that the railway option would also offer other advantages viz. development of the area, boost to agriculture, generation of employment potential, etc.

The proposal for the pipeline project is still under examination and a final decision is yet to be taken.

Tehri Dam Project

*90. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been rethinking on the further construction of Tehri Dam Project in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the project has been duly cleared by the Planning Commission;

(c) whether Government have taken note of the Uttar Pradesh Government's announcement that it would go ahead with the Project; and

(d) if so, what is Central Government's reaction thereto and the fate of the Tehri Project at present?